



**FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE  
HONG KONG BUREAU**

MHK-0023  
9 February 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, FBIS  
THROUGH : Chief, Operations Group  
SUBJECT : Hong Kong Bureau Monthly Report for January 1981

**I. BUREAU RELOCATION**

Effective 16 January, Hong Kong Bureau was relocated in Hopewell Center. The move occurred with no more than the usual difficulties one might anticipate in such an endeavor. The biggest problem arose when a part that was necessary for the operation of the remote system failed to arrive as expected, thus delaying the resumption of radio monitoring for four days. Okinawa and Seoul Bureaus stepped in to fill the gap.

Much credit for the efficient transfer of our operations must go to bureau technician [redacted] who has worked tirelessly over a number of months to insure the technical success of the move. Throughout the process he benefitted from the guidance of Okinawa Bureau Chief Engineer [redacted] and during the actual move itself, from the help of Okinawa Engineer [redacted]

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At this point things have settled down as the necessary adjustments to our new surroundings are being made. Hopewell, like any new home for 10,000 people, has--and therefore causes--its share of problems. Elevators can be unreliable, the plumbing often does not work as it should, unidentifiable odors provide a distraction, and so forth. All things considered, however, the building should meet the bureau's needs, and this is all the more evident when Hopewell is compared with possible alternatives in Hong Kong.

**II. OPERATIONS**

1. Editorial/Monitorial: The bureau continued to be kept busy in January by the ongoing debates in China over the country's political and economic future. The Beijing trials continued to demand our attention, although much of January was spent waiting for the verdicts and attempting to follow the political undercurrents that preceded their announcement.

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2. Shenyang Monitoring: The bureau's contractor in Beijing has successfully monitored Shenyang radio, although at the moment we are only covering to backstop Seoul bureau's uncertain reception.

3. Service to VOA: Following approval from Headquarters, the bureau chief granted permission to VOA Hong Kong to maintain the "leak line" it has had in St. John's building after the move to Hopewell. The line permits VOA to receive the bureau's entire incoming file, thereby permitting them to receive FBIS material on a more timely basis, but simultaneously posing the potentially troubling problem to the bureau of having an outside consumer receive all of our messages, including administrative and other traffic intended for more limited distribution.

In keeping with headquarters guidance, as a condition for continuing this arrangement the bureau chief secured a written commitment from the local VOA chief to protect and burn sensitive material and material not intended for VOA's use. (AIUO)

4. Assistance to DLO: At his request, the bureau has begun providing Jim Waggener of the Consulate Defense Liason Office with cassettes for language training.

### III. ADMINISTRATION

1. Resignations: The bureau's already understrength monitorial staff took two more jolts this month with the resignations of [redacted] two of our best monitors. [redacted] is leaving in February for Japan where she plans to marry and resume her education. [redacted] becomes the latest in what is becoming a long line of people who have left to accept positions that offer higher rewards--either in terms of money, better working conditions, or better chances for advancement--than we can provide. That these resignations have come at a time of increasing demand for the bureau's product intensifies the problem.

At the moment, we have three monitorial candidates in processing, but their status as relatively recent immigrants from China has made things more difficult, as has the latest wrench in the works, the hiring freeze. In the case of one applicant, a commitment letter was issued by the Consulate personnel officer on 19 November 1980. (AIUO)

2. New Teletypist: The bureau was able to EOD teletypist [redacted] just under the wire before announcement of the hiring freeze. Miss [redacted] is one of two teletypists on State's payroll. She was hired to replace [redacted] who left in November to accept a higher paying position with Union Carbide Hong Kong.

3. Promotion: Teletypist [redacted] was promoted to FSN-5 following highly successful completion of his first year with FBIS as a trainee.

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#### IV. VISITS

1. Okinawa Engineer [redacted] 8-21 January.
2. [redacted] 14 January.
3. Consul General Thomas Shoesmith, 27 January.
4. Iain Orr, Assistant Political Advisor to the Hong Kong Government, 29 January.

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[redacted]

Chief, Hong Kong Bureau

#### Attachments:

- A. Production
  - B. Coverage Schedule
  - C. List of Equipment Received
- cc: Orig. + 3 Hqs.  
Chief, Okinawa Bureau  
Chief, Seoul Bureau  
File

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